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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

REPORT

SUBJECT Residents' Committees in Shanghai

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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Shanghai is divided into nine districts for the purpose of civil administration and public security. Under each of these nine district governments are residents' committees, roughly one committee for every neighborhood. A neighborhood consists of from five to twenty families depending on the layout of the streets in any given area. Each residents' committee has several sections, including the following:

- a. A protective section. This is generally regarded as the eyes and ears of the Public Security Department. It maintains records of the persons living in the neighborhood in which it functions, including their associates, social status, places of employment and any experiences of special significance. It has no investigative arm of its own but may refer matters requiring investigation to the police. The census police often carry out investigations on behalf of the protective section and consult in turn with the protective section on happenings within the neighborhood under its jurisdiction. The protective section consists of a chief, two deputy chiefs and ten members. All are residents of the neighborhood they control and most are from workers families.
- b. A health section. This section carries out monthly inspections of residences in its neighborhood to insure that certain standards of cleanliness are being observed and is responsible for general neighborhood sanitation.
- c. A cultural amusements section. It provides recreational facilities such as table tennis, books, magazines and sponsors organized games. Expenses for this section are shared by the residents served by it.
- d. A treasury section.

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- e. A newspaper reading section. It maintains newspaper files for the reading public. For those that cannot read, a group reading session is held each day during which newspapers are read aloud. Discussions are held for about one hour each day during which such subjects as capitalistic exploitation, advanced Soviet methods, development of new democracies and any special campaigns in progress are discussed. Attendance at these newspaper reading and discussion sessions is obligatory for the unemployed and housewives. Persons employed in shops and factories have separate reading and discussion groups at their place of work.
- f. A reconciliation section. This section investigates quarrels among residents of the neighborhood and attempts to settle these without recourse to law. Should such disputes reach the courts, however, this section counsels the court in the case.

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Comments.

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1. During the Korean war, a special Anti-America Aid Korea section was established to propagandize the role of the "Peoples Volunteers" and collect subscriptions for them.
2. The census police are charged with registering all persons living in the area of their jurisdiction and recording changes of residence into or out of their area.

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